

## Arizona Forest Health Advisory Council Landscape Context Subcommittee

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Subcommittee Statement of Purpose and/or Goals: The purpose of this Subcommittee is to articulate the important spatial context of forest health issues. Our primary product has been a White Paper focusing on the importance of approaching forest health, community protection, and ecosystem restoration at the landscape scale:

*Landscape Coexistence: Land-use Planning for Forest Health, Wildland Fire and Communities.* 2007. D. Falk, C. Cox, D. Hill, T. McKinnon, K. Siderits, and T. Swetnam.

This technical paper covers topics including:

- Natural and historic fire regimes of Arizona forests;
- Fundamental principles of fire behavior, especially extreme events, on forested landscapes;
- Relationship of fire spread on the larger landscape to fire-proofing of individual existing homes and communities;
- Financial and human costs for dealing with severe fires in landscapes with private interests requiring protection, including suppression costs and firefighter safety;
- Implications of land-use patterns for large-scale ecology and land management;
- Precedents for land use and growth management controls that could be applied to relieve conflicts between development and fire behavior;
- Technical tools that could help to turn these concepts into concrete reality for public policy-makers, land managers, and the public.

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